

REMARKS

Including newly added claim 71, claims 1-60 and 71 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 61-70 are canceled pursuant to this Amendment.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 13, 2006, Applicant elects without traverse Group 1, claims 1-21 and 47-54, drawn to a process for producing an optically active α -substituted aminoketone and an α -substituted aminoketone. Applicant also submits that newly added claim 71 belongs to Group 1 because newly added claim 71 shares the special technical feature of Group 1. Specifically, newly added claim 71 is a process for producing an optically active aminoketone represented by formula (4) or an aminoketone salt represented by formula (5) from the compound represented by formula (3). Therefore Applicant submits that newly added claim 71 should be examined as part of Group 1.

Applicant also notes, as clarified through a telephone inquiry to the Examiner, that the previous Office Action was not intended to include an election of species requirement.

Newly added claim 71 is supported by the disclosure, e.g. at pages 4-5 of the specification.

In view of the above, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be

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best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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